

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### *Purpose of Checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

### *Instructions for Applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring the preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe the your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or to provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

### **A. BACKGROUND**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Mima Mounds Oak Habitat Restoration**
2. Name of applicant: **Washington State Department of Natural Resources**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
**Deborah Nemens**  
**1111 SE Washington St**  
**MS 47014, Olympia**  
**WA 98504**  
**360-902-1634**
4. Date checklist prepared: **August 31, 2009**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Department of Natural Resources**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Between September 15, 2009 and October 15, 2009**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **No**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **Spotted owl habitat mapping, marbled murrelet reclassified habitat maps, State Soil Survey, DNR GIS databases. Available at Pacific Cascade Region office.**
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. **No**
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **Forest Practices Application**
11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agency may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) **Approximately 15 acres of 80-year-old Douglas fir will be removed from 4 units in the forested area of Minna Mounds Natural Area Preserve (NAP). The purpose of this silvicultural treatment is to improve habitat quality for Garry oaks occurring on the property. The Douglas firs that are shading or otherwise competing with oaks will be removed, or girdled/topped to create wildlife habitat. This is an even-aged stand. The trees will be cut and removed using a harvester-forwarder system, minimizing impacts on soil, vegetation and surrounding oaks. No new roads will be constructed. Existing roads will have access blocked upon completion of the project. There are no plans to re-plant the site, as the oaks will be left, and the eventual goal is an oak woodland ecosystem.**
12. Location of proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographical map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any applications related to this checklist.  
**Project is located in the NW NE quarter-quarter of Section 3 Township 16, Range 03W in Thurston County. Directions: one mile west of Littlerock on 128<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW., north on Waddell Creek Road for .25 miles, west into preserve entrance.**

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

1. Earth
  - a. General description of the site (circle one): ☒ Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **5%**
  - c. What general types of soils (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. **Gravelly sandy loam**
  - d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **No**
  - e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **No filling or grading will occur.**
  - f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **No**
  - g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **1% -- only previously existing rocked roads.**

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **Minimal amounts of erosion could occur as a result of logging activity; only low-impact equipment will be used in order to minimize soil compaction and erosion.**

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **Minor amounts of engine exhaust from logging equipment and trucks, dust from vehicle traffic and logging equipment are expected while the project is active.**
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **No**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **None**

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. **None**
- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. **No**
- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill material. **0%**
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No**
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **No**
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. **No**

b. Ground:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No**
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number such systems, the number of houses to be served ( if applicable), or the number animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. **Minor amounts of oil, fuel, and other lubricants may inadvertently be discharged to the ground as a result of equipment use or mechanical failure. No lubricants will be disposed of on-site. This proposed activity is expected to have no impact on ground water.**

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. **None expected**

2) Could waste material enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **No**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: **Minor amounts of oil, fuel, and other lubricants may inadvertently be discharged to the ground as a result of equipment use or mechanical failure. No lubricants will be disposed of on-site. This proposed activity is expected to have no impact on ground water.**

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other Garry oak

☒ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, hemlock, pine, other

☒ shrubs

☒ grass

☐ pasture

☐ crop or grain

☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

☒ other types of vegetation Roemer's fescue dominated native prairie

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

**Approximately 177 MBF of Douglas fir trees will be removed.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

**We will continue to improve the quality of habitat at Mima Mounds, removing invasive species and encouraging the propagation of native prairie species in newly released areas after harvest. We will continue to collect native seed for propagation and re-planting and seeding at the site.**

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: ☒hawk, heron, eagle, ☒songbirds, other: harrier, woodpeckers

mammals: ☒deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None**

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **No**

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **Oak woodland and prairie habitat improvement is the goal of this activity. To this end, removal of Douglas fir, snag creation and planting of native species on the site are expected to improve wildlife habitat.**

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electrical, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. **Gasoline and diesel for equipment**

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. **No**

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: **Plans are to use slash from logging to generate energy**

at a local co-generation plant.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.
  - 1) Describe any emergency services that might be required. **Emergency medical and/or ambulance service for personal injuries. Response by the Department of Ecology if a hazardous waste spill were to occur.**
  - 2) Propose measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **As is feasible, most logging slash will be removed from the site, which reduces the risk of fire.**
- b. Noise
  - 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **The local gun-club has shooting range, but it is not anticipated that the sounds of gunfire will affect the project.**
  - 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. **Typical noise associated with logging operations can be expected. These may be reduced due to the use of low-impact equipment. There will be a logging truck, chainsaws, sounds of falling trees, etc. All noise will be short-term during approximately two weeks, and all will occur during daylight hours**
  - 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **Low-impact equipment use, plus operations will be restricted to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. No operations will occur on weekends or holidays per contract requirements.**

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?  
**Area Preserve for scientific study, biological diversity preservation and low impact public use.**
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **Cows were grazed on the prairie previous to DNR's ownership.**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **Pit toilet facilities and a cement interpretive center.**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? if so, what? **None**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Forest land**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Natural Area Preserve**
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **N.A.**
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. **No**
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **None residing, less than 10 working**
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None**
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **N.A.**

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **This project is compatible with our management plans and the goals of the Natural Areas program. This proposal is consistent with current land use designations and zoning regulations. See question A.11 above.**

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.  
**None**
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.  
**None**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:  
**None**

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **N.A.**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **Removal areas along trail will be visible to visitors, and expose the oak woodland in the core of the forested section of the preserve.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **In the future, interpretive signs may be installed to educate visitors on the purpose and results of project.**

11. Light and Glare

- a. What kind of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **None**
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **N.A.**
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **None**
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **None**

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Mima Mounds NAP is used by hikers and nature enthusiasts. The interpretative center and trail are used for recreational and educational purposes by the public.**
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **The project would necessitate the temporary closure of the preserve during week days only to visitors for safety reasons. This closure period is unlikely to last more than 3 weeks.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **Notice will be given in various forms prior to preserve closure.**

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. **Mima Mounds became a registered natural landmark in 1967 due to the presence of the unique prairie mounds that comprise the majority of the site.**

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. **None were found or are known to be on site.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **If during the course of the sale, any cultural resource is discovered, operations in the immediate vicinity will stop and the Agency's Archaeologist will be contacted to survey the site and develop a Site Protection Plan.**

#### 14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans if any. **None**
- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **No**
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **No change**
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **No**
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **No**
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **The completed project will generate about 5 vehicular trips per day on average. Up to 10 vehicular trips per day could occur during peak harvest activities. These trips would occur primarily between the hours of 7am to 7pm on weekdays.**
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **Related vehicular trips will be limited to the extent possible.**

#### 15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. **No**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **N.A.**

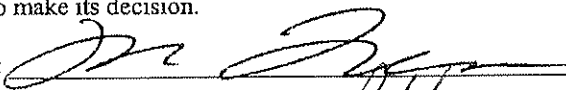
#### 16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. **None in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project.**
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. **N.A.**

#### C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is

on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Reviewed by (optional): Brian M. Pacheco

Title: Recreation and Natural Areas District Manager

Date: 8/7/09